

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19

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FM AMCONSUL NAPLES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3662

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAPLES 902

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, IT

SUBJECT: UNREST FOLLOWS CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN NAPLES

REF: ROME: 9976

1. THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS WITHIN PAST FEW DAYS OF AN UGLY MOOD PREVAILING IN THE CITY OF NAPLES.
2. LAST WEEK THE CHARGED ATMOSPHERE RESULTING FROM THE ADVERSE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE CHOLERA OUTBREAK (DESCRIBED REFTEL) WAS FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY POLICE DESTRUCTION OF SIZABLE MUSSEL BEDS IN BAY OF NAPLES AND BY DEMOLITION OF THE NUMEROUS SMALL

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STANDS OF SEAFOOD VENDORS ALONG THE BAY. THE
CONSEQUENT SUDDEN WORSENING OF ALREADY ACUTE
UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION HAS ADDED FURTHER TO
GENERAL UNREST.

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3. NEWS THAT A NUMBER OF PRESENT AND FORMER CITY

OFFICIALS FACE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION FOR HAVING ALLOWED THE CULTIVATION OF MUSSELS IN AREAS KNOWN TO BE POLLUTED HAS ADDED A RECRIMINATORY INGREDIENT.

4. LATE IN THE WEEK ALLEGATIONS EMERGED OF CORRUPTION IN THE CITY'S SANITATION DEPARTMENT AND, BECAUSE OF THIS, THE PRI HAS WITHDRAWN ITS SUPPORT FROM CITY GOVERNMENT, THEREBY REDUCING TO A MINORITY THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE CENTER-LEFT GIUNTA WHICH PREVIOUSLY HAD MARGIN OF ONLY ONE. THE PSI IS REPORTED CONSIDERING SIMILAR ACTION, ALTHOUGH MOST PSI COUNCILMEN ARE BELIEVED TO BE OPPOSED TO IT. NEVERTHELESS, CHANCES THAT PRESENT CITY GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE ARE IN SOME DOUBT.
5. A NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AGAINST

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THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHOLERA OUTBREAK AND SUBSEQUENT UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THE COURSE OF WHICH SEVERAL ISOLATED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE HAVE OCCURRED. THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRONT OF THE MUNICIPALITY WERE SUFFICIENTLY WORRISOMME TO AUTHORITIES THAT IN THE COURSE OF AMBASSADOR VOLPE'S VISIT LAST WEEK, THE MAYOR ELECTED TO COME TO THE CONSUL GENERAL'S RESIDENCE TO GREET THE AMBASSADOR RATHER THAN HAVE HIM CALL AT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.

6. SITUATION SOMEWHAT LESS TENSE TODAY. SOURCE IN PREFECT'S OFFICE TOLD US THAT THE GOVERNMENT IN ROME HAS JUST MADE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT OF 450 ADDITIONAL GARBAGE COLLECTORS WITH PREFERENCE TO BE GIVEN TO DISPLACED SEAFOOD VENDORS.

7. IN THE PRESENT UNWHOLESOME ATMOSPHERE, IT CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT SOME UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT COULD LEAD TO DISORDERS OR OTHER SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES: HOWEVER, IF THERE ARE NO SUCH MISHAPS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, NAPLES
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SHOULD BEGIN TO RECOVER FROM BOTH THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE CHOLERA OUTBREAK.

8. CENTRAL QUESTION IS WHETHER THE SHOCK AND SUFFERING WHICH THE CHOLERA OUTBREAK HAS INFLICTED ON NAPLES

WILL SET IN MOTION ANY LASTING EFFORTS TOWARD
REFORM AND MODERNIZATION IN THE AREAS OF
SANITATION AND POLLUTION CONTROL IN THE BAY
AREA. HOROWITZ.

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